

IRENE SENUTOVITCH

AUGUST 20 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3214]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 3214) for the relief of Irene Senutovitch, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Irene Senutovitch. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 36-year-old native and citizen of Russia who last entered the United States as a visitor on December 4, 1947. She has two brothers in this country who are citizens of the United States and her parents are legal residents of the United States.

A letter dated November 22, 1949, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Acting Assistant to the Attorney General with reference to H. R. 2461, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same alien, reads as follows:

NOVEMBER 22, 1949.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary.

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2461) for the relief of Irene Senutovitch, an alien.

The bill would provide that, for the purposes of the immigration and naturalization laws, Irene Senutovitch shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to make a deduction from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Irene Senutovitch is a native and citizen of Russia, having been born in St. Petersburg on July 17, 1915. She entered the United States at the port of New York on December 4, 1947, when she was admitted as a visitor for pleasure for 6 months under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. She has had extensions of her temporary stay until February 1, 1949.

The files further reflect that at the time of her arrival Miss Senutovitch was destined to visit her brothers, George and Andre, residing in Houston, Tex., and Santa Fe, N. Mex., respectively. Her brothers are citizens of the United States, Andre having served in the United States Army for approximately 5 years during World War II. It is stated that her purpose in coming here was to make arrangements for her parents, who were then awaiting the issuance of immigration visas in Paris, to enter this country. Her parents, Vladimar and Vers Senutovitch, are now legal permanent residents of the United States. Miss Senutovitch resides with them in New York City. The father is 71 years of age and is said to be in failing health. The record indicates that he recently sold his Retail Oil Co., Society Dunaphte, located in the Middle East, to the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, and that he is still connected with the latter in an advisory capacity. Her father, it is further stated, contributes about \$12,000 a year to her support.

The quota of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for several years and a quota immigration visa is not readily obtainable. The record, however, fails to present considerations sufficient to justify the enactment of special legislation granting her a preference over other aliens abroad who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of this measure.

Yours sincerely,

PETER CAMPBELL BROWN,
Acting the Assistant to the Attorney General.

Congressman John J. Dempsey, the author of the bill, submitted the following letter, dated May 25, 1951, to the chairman of a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives in connection with the case:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., May 25, 1951.

In re H. R. 3214.

Hon. FRANCIS E. WALTER,

*Chairman, Subcommittee No. 1, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

My DEAR COLLEAGUE: I will be away for about a week, but I did want you to have the following additional information concerning Irene Senutovitch:

Miss Senutovitch was born in Russia 35 years ago. At the age of 2, her family, because of the Bolshevik regime taking over, left Russia and went to Finland. After a stay of 2 years in Finland, they moved to Paris, where they have lived ever since.

Miss Senutovitch's two brothers are American citizens. One, Andre, is a veteran of World War II, having been in the Air Force for 5 years. He now resides in Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Her father and mother are living in New York at 420 Park Avenue. Mr. Senutovitch is about 73 years of age, and is in bad health. They are not citizens because they have been in this country for something less than a year, but they desire to become citizens at the earliest possible time consistent with our laws.

The Senutovitch family have ample funds to enable them to live well, so that there is no question of any burden upon our country by having them here. As a matter of fact, we could use more of their type of people.

Miss Senutovitch is the only member of the family who has not been allowed to remain here. I think it is an extreme hardship case to send this one member of the family away, and not to her country, but to another country—France.

I am returning to Washington from Santa Fe on June 5, but I wanted you to have these additional facts, and to know that I will sincerely appreciate anything you can do for Miss Senutovitch.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. DEMPSEY,
Member of Congress.

In addition, Mr. Albert Cross, administrative secretary to Congressman Dempsey, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and made the following statement:

STATEMENT OF ALBERT CROSS, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. DEMPSEY, RELATIVE TO H. R. 3214, FOR THE RELIEF OF IRENE SENUTOVITCH

I am appearing in the absence of Congressman Dempsey from Washington to ask favorable consideration by this subcommittee of H. R. 3214, which would hold that Miss Irene Senutovitch, who entered the United States on December 4, 1947, as a temporary visitor, shall be considered to have lawfully admitted to the United States as a permanent resident.

Miss Senutovitch was born in Russia on July 17, 1915. She was a child of 2 when the Bolshevik regime took over, and her family was forced to flee to Finland. After 2 years in that country, they went to Paris, where she has lived ever since.

Miss Senutovitch is the only member of her family who is not legally a permanent resident of the United States. Her father and mother live in New York at 420 Park Avenue. They have been admitted on immigration quotas and desire to become American citizens at the earliest time possible under the law.

Both of her brothers are American citizens. One of them, Andre Senutovitch, served with the Air Force during World War II and was honorably discharged in December 1945, after serving 5 years and 26 days. He now lives in Santa Fe, N. Mex. Another brother lives in Houston, Tex.

Miss Senutovitch's parents, Vladimir and Vera Senutovitch, are both elderly. The father is 73 and in failing health. The family is well fixed financially; so, there would be no question involved of the possibility of this person becoming a charity case.

We recognize that the word "Russian" is not likely to strike a sympathetic appeal in our present days of international tension, but it is this one aspect that, in our opinion, makes the case even more deserving. Here is a person who, at an age when most children are troubled with nothing more severe than falling out of bed, was forced to leave her homeland because of the ruthlessness of a regime which is only now becoming recognized for the tyranny it is.

Miss Senutovitch is truly a "woman without a country." She cannot return to her home country. She can go back to Paris, but there she will be separated by thousands of miles from her parents and brothers, the only family she has. I hope you gentlemen will agree that to do this would be an extreme hardship, and report favorably on H. R. 3214.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 3214) should be enacted.

